

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAPE T 01101 031259Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15
PA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INR-10 INRE-00 /069 W
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O R 031140Z JUN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA NIACT IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7385
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1101

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, OTRA, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PROPOSED VISITS BY PRETORIA/CAPE TOWN EMBASSY
POLITICAL OFFICERS

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH STEVE LOW IN LUSAKA.
2. I UNDERSTAND THE DEPARTMENT IS FAVORABLY INCLINED TO THE IDEA OF REGULAR VISITS BY PRETORIA/CAPE TOWN EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICERS TO RHODESIA. STEVE LOW HAS SUGGESTED THAT WE BEGIN BY SENDING POLITICAL OFFICERS TO PARTICIPATE WITH HIM FOR SHORT PERIODS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING AND SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO SALISBURY. I BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND PENDING DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE PLAN TO ASSIGN THIS TASK ON ALTERNATE OCCASIONS TO POLITICAL COUNSELOR JAY TAYLOR AND FSO STEVE MCDONALD WHO COVERS RHODESIAN AFFAIRS FROM PRETORIA. PRIOR TO FIRST VISIT TO SALISBURY BY EITHER TAYLOR OR MCDONALD,
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LOW WILL INFORM JACK GAYLARD SO THAT THERE IS NO MISUNDER-
STANDING AND THE NECESSARY PERMISSION IS GRANTED.

3. DURING THESE VISITS TAYLOR OR MCDONALD WOULD ACCOMPANY LOW DURING HIS REGULAR BUSINESS, EITHER MEETING WITH THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OR ITS DEPUTIES, OR IN SEPARATE MEETINGS, GRADUALLY DEVELOPING A PERSONAL ACQUAINTANCE WITH FIGURES

FROM ALL POLITICAL GROUPS. LATER IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR THE OFFICER TO MEET ALONG WITH PEOPLE IN SALISBURY AND EVENTUALLY IT IS OUR HOPE THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL TO SALISBURY EVEN IF LOW WERE NOT THERE ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND IN COORDINATION WITH LOW. THE FSO'S CONCERNED WOULD OF COURSE COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH THE UK OFFICE IN SALISBURY. THEY WOULD AVOID PRESS ATTENTION AND MAKE NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS. IF ASKED THEY WOULD DESCRIBE THEIR MISSION AS IN SUPPORT OF THE GRAHAM-LOW EFFORT TO ASSIST THE PARTIES IN WORKING OUT AN ORDERLY TRANSITION TO MAJORITY RULE.

4. IF SUCH VISITS ARE APPROVED, WE SUGGEST THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE ON AN "IF ASKED" BASIS:

--AN OFFICER FROM OUR EMBASSY IN PRETORIA HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO HELP SUPPORT THE EFFORT BY GRAHAM AND LOW TO BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER FOR ORDERLY PROGRESS TOWARD MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA. HIS TRAVEL TO SALISBURY IS BEING PERFORMED IN THIS REGARD.

5. FOR STEVE LOW IN LUSAKA: IF CONVENIENT, PLEASE TELEPHONE ME MONDAY BEFORE 10:00 A.M. FROM PRETORIA IN ORDER TO DISCUSS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR YOUR MISSION.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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